

The Rural District Council of Blore Heath.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH, FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st
DECEMBER, 1911.

TO THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF BLORE
HEATH.

Gentlemen,—I have now the honour of presenting my Annual Report upon the health of your District for the year 1911.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS.

The Rural Sanitary District of Blore Heath has an area of upwards of 13,660 acres, and comprises the three parishes of Ashley, Mucklestone, and Tyrley. The parishes of Mucklestone and Tyrley include some very fertile, highly-cultivated land, but as these parishes rise towards that of Ashley the land becomes poorer in quality. At Ashley begin the moorlands of Staffordshire, the Southern extremity of the Pennine Range. Ashley Heath is upwards of 750 feet above sea level, and is the highest cultivated table land in England. The trend of the drainage of the district is for the most part westward to the River Tern, except the eastern portion of Ashley parish, which is drained by tributaries of the River Sow. The springs forming the source of the Market Drayton Water Company's supply are situate in the Burnt Woods. The mains run through the fields upon which the Battle of Blore Heath was fought in 1459.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population.—The population of the district at the last census (1911) was 2,287. The estimated population to the middle of 1911 was 2,290. The natural increase (i.e., the excess of births over deaths) during the year was 32. The population has varied considerably, for a small district, in the last thirty years, as shown by the census returns:—

1881, 2,335; 1891, 2,227; 1901, 2,141; 1911, 2,287. The number of inhabited houses at the last census (1911) was 511 (an increase of 45 since 1901), and the average number of persons in each house was 4.47 against 4.5 in 1901.

Marriages. — Fourteen marriages were registered in 1911.

Births.—Fifty-five children were born and registered in the year. Of these four were illegitimate. The birth-rate was 24 per 1,000 of the estimated population. The average rate for the previous five years was 21.2 per 1,000.

Deaths.—Twenty-two deaths were registered in the year. One of these was of a “non-resident,” and has to be deducted; but two “residents” died in other districts, and these deaths have to be added, making the net deaths of “residents” 23, equal to a death-rate of 10 per 1,000 of the estimated population. The average death-rate for the preceding five years was 11.8 per 1,000.

Classification of Deaths.—Of the 23 deaths, 11 were of persons of the age of 65 and upwards, and five were under 5. Three deaths were certified as due to pneumonia, three to heart disease, two to cerebral hemorrhage, two to convulsions, one to consumption, one to cancer, and one to old age. Three of the deaths were of infants under one year.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Only five cases of infectious disease were notified to me in the whole district during the year, viz.: three of scarlet fever, one of diphtheria, and one of erysipelas. One case of scarlet fever was removed to the Isolation Hospital. The case of diphtheria terminated fatally.

Measles and whooping cough are not included in the list of notifiable diseases. Pulmonary tuberculosis has been voluntarily notifiable since 1900, but very few cases have been notified; now that notification of the disease is compulsory a better estimate of the prevalence of the disease in the district will be obtained, and measures taken for efficient treatment and prevention of its spreading.

In all cases of infectious disease notified to me, printed instructions are at once sent to the occupiers of the infected houses, suggesting the precautions to be taken in order to check the spread of contagion. At the termination of all cases disinfection and efficient cleansing of the infected rooms have been carried out under the direction of the Sanitary Inspector. School teachers are notified of the occurrence of notifiable infectious diseases, and children from infected houses are excluded from school.

VACCINATION.

The following statistics of vaccination in your district have been furnished to me by the Vaccination Officer:—Of the fifty-five children born and registered during the year, thirty-two were successfully vaccinated. The vaccination of two was postponed by medical certificate, one child was removed from the district, two died unvaccinated, eight were not of age at the end of the year, and ten remain unvaccinated because their parents had conscientious objections to vaccination, and made legal declarations to that effect.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION FOR THE WORKING CLASSES.

The district is well provided with house accommodation, forty-five new houses having been built during the past ten years. Instances of unfitness for habitation or unsanitary conditions are reported to the Council by myself or by the Sanitary Inspector.

WATER SUPPLY.

This is chiefly derived from deep or shallow pump-wells and draw-wells. The village of As-

ton has a public supply from a reservoir at Myn Bank. In calm weather the windmill pump fails to maintain a sufficient quantity of water for the requirements of the village. Another source of supply is being tested, to augment the supply of Aston, and possibly also to supply the hamlet of Weymouth, but it is doubtful whether the quantity of water available will render the scheme practicable.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

Ashley.—A joint inspection of the village was made in May by one of the County Sanitary Inspectors and your Sanitary Inspector, and reports of the inspection were made to your Council. These reports and an independent scheme for sewerage a portion of the village have been under the consideration of the Council, but a definite solution of the difficulty has not yet been arrived at.

Weymouth. — The sewerage and disposal of the sewage has been under consideration by the Council for some time. A larger scheme, to include Pipe Gate and Woore (in the Drayton Rural District), would appear to be feasible. From the trend of the drainage a separate outfall for Knighton would seem to be necessary, but it may be possible to include this village in the extended scheme for Weymouth.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT, 1901.

The application of this Act is very limited in the district, there being only a few workshops (wheelwrights and blacksmiths), one small cheese factory, and one bakehouse. The Home Office official table is affixed.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS ORDER, 1886.

The regulations of this Order were adopted by the Council, and came into force on 1st May, 1907. The number of milk-sellers on the register is 20, and inspections of the dairies, &c., are now regularly made.

NUISANCES, &c.

A summary of the work done by your Sanitary Inspector is given in a table at the end of this report.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

A. MACQUEEN, M.D.

Market Drayton,
20th March, 1912.

Summary of Sanitary Work done in the Nuisance Inspector's Department during the year 1911, in the Rural District of Blore Heath.

Dwelling-houses and Schools—Foul conditions: Number of inspections and observations made, 5; defects found, 5; abatement notices—informal by Inspector, 5; nuisances abated after notice by Inspector, 4. Dwelling-houses and Schools—Structural defects: Inspections and observations made, 19; defects found, 24; abatement notices—informal by Inspector 11, formal by Authority 2; nuisances abated after notice by Inspector 7, by Authority 11. Dairies and Milkshops: Inspections and observations made, 4; defects found, 1; abatement notices—informal by Inspector, 1; nuisances abated after notice by Inspector,

tor, 1. Cowsheds: Inspections and observations made, 10; defects found, 7; abatement notices—informal by Inspector, 4; nuisances abated after notices by Inspector, 3. Bakehouses: Inspections and observations made, 3; defects found, 3; abatement notices — informal by Inspector, 2; nuisances abated after notice by Inspector, 3. Canal Boats: Inspections and observations made, 5. Ashpits and Privies: Inspections and observations made, 27, defects found, 12; abatement notices — informal by Inspector, 11; nuisances abated after notice by Inspector, 10. Deposits of Refuse and Manure: Inspections and observations made, 2; defects found, 2; abatement notices—informal by Inspector, 2; nuisances abated after notice by Inspector, 2. House Drainage—Defective traps: Inspections and observations made, 18; defects found, 12; abatement notices—informal by Inspector, 5; nuisances abated after notice by Inspector, 10. House Drainage—No disconnection: Inspections and observations made, 7; defects found, 4; abatement notices—informal by Inspector, 4; nuisances abated after notice by Inspector, 3. House Drainage—Other faults: Inspections and observations made, 60; defects found, 36; abatement notices—informal by Inspector 17, formal by Authority 2; nuisances abated after notice by Inspector 24, by Authority 4. Water Supply: Inspections and observations made, 94; defects found, 27; abatement notices—informal by Inspector 13, formal by Authority 2; nuisances abated after notice by Inspector 17, by Authority 2. Pigsties: Inspections and observations made, 14; defects found, 9; abatement notices—informal by Inspector 9, formal by Authority 1; nuisances abated after notice by Inspector 7, by Authority 1. Animals improperly kept: Inspections and observations made, 1; defects found, 1; abatement notices—informal by Inspector, 1; nuisances abated after notice by Inspector, 1. Other Nuisances: Inspections and observations made, 47; defects found, 21; abatement notices—informal by Inspector 24, formal by Authority 4; nuisances abated after notice by Inspector 15, by Authority 3. Totals: Inspections and observations, 316; defects, 164; abatement notices — informal 105, formal 11; nuisances abated after notice—by Inspector 107, by Authority 21.

Samples of Water taken for analysis, 16; condemned as unfit for use, 10.

Precautions against Infectious Disease:—Houses disinfected after infectious disease—rooms, 8.

HUGH JONES,

20th March, 1912.

Inspector of Nuisances.